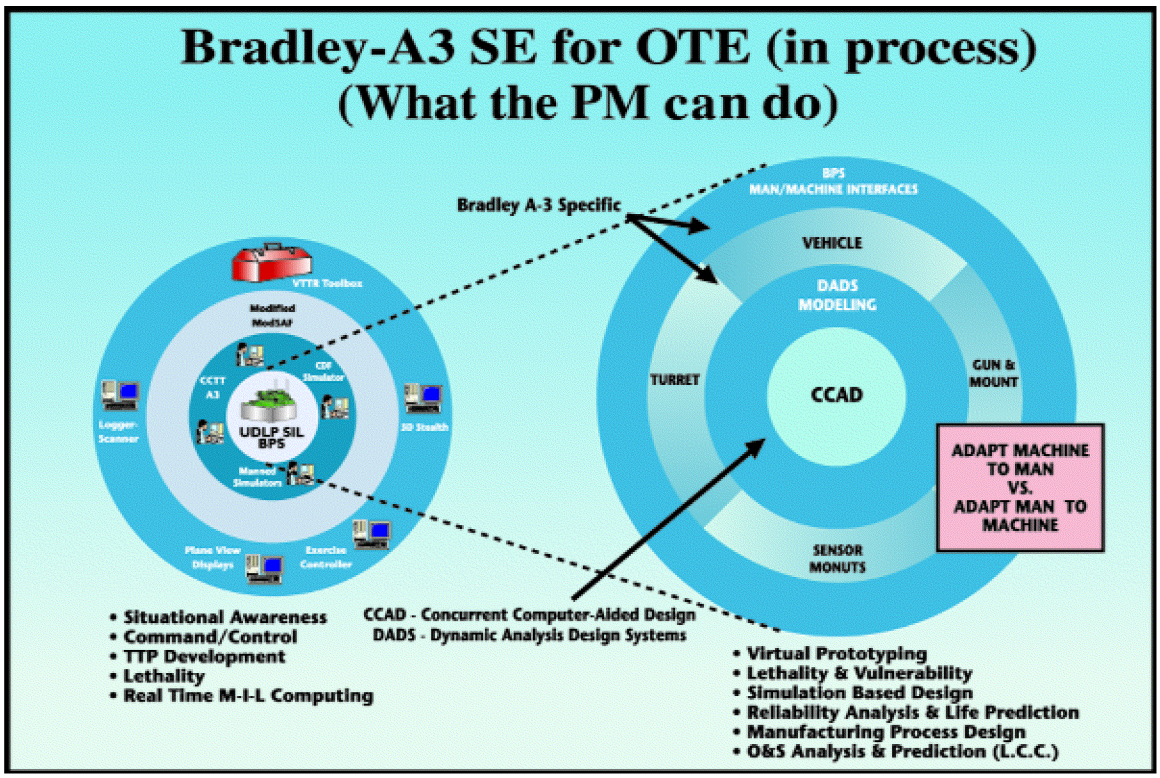
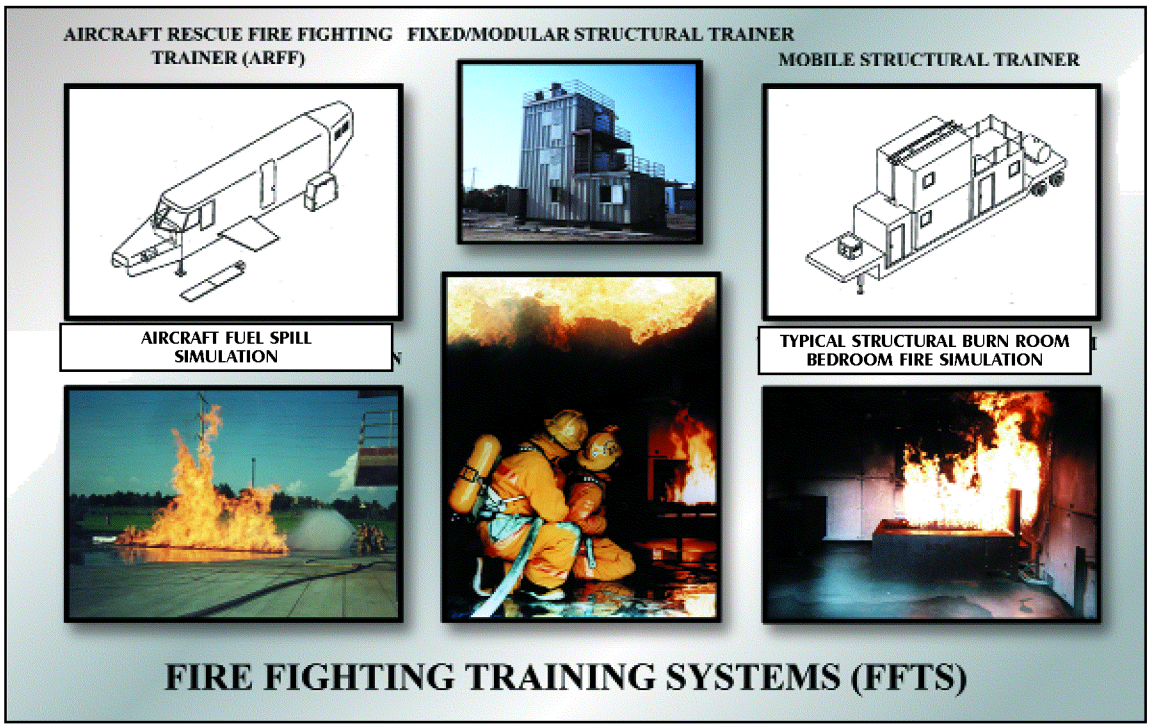
Use Of Synthetic Enviroment For Operational Testing Of The Bradley - A3 Vehicle

STRICOM initiated a study of the synthetic environment (SE) to support the reengineered Operational Test and Evaluation (OTE) process for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, M2A3. The effort is a partnership between STRICOM, the Operational Test and Evaluation Command (OPTEC), and the Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM). To support the Bradley - A3 Operational Testing Program, STRICOM also formed a Synthetic Environment (SE) Integrated Project Team (IPT), consisting of government, industry, and academia. The SE, for the Bradley - A3 vehicle, provides a cohesive framework for integrating the perspectives of the developers, evaluators and testers, trainers, and users. The SE study defines potential architectures and issues for future operational testing of the vehicle C4I systems. The results of the SE study, which was Phase I of the overall effort, clearly shows significant benefit to the pretest and test period for developing tactics and doctrine, supporting crew training, and helping to relieve compressed program schedules. The SE does not replace testing, but marks an important step forward in the use of the Simulation Based Acquisition (SBA) in support of an ACAT I program testing milestones. In Phase II of the effort, OPTEC, TECOM, and STRICOM will perform a side-by-side comparison of the SE with the Live Environment (LE) to provide information on the value of the SE in the OTE.



Fire Fighting Training System

STRICOM planned and executed the Fire Fighting Training System (FFTS) program to meet a Congressionally mandated requirement to replace existing fossil-fueled fire fighting training sites with commercially available gas-fueled, computer and programmable logic controlled FFTS at 19 US Army installations. The FFTS will safely replicate flames, heat and reduce visibility during residential, industrial or aviation fire fighting training scenarios. The trainer design, using commercial off-the-shelf fire fighting technology, will integrate proven commercially available fire fighting training into structural, modular/fixed and mobile configurations. The FFTS maximized the use of DoD Acquisition Reform Initiatives in order to proceed from market research to Request for Proposal (RFP) in four months with deliveries scheduled for FY 98.



M1A2 Tank - Project SWORD (Saudi Arabia)

Project SWORD is the fielding of M1A2 Tank and overall modernization of the Royal Saudi Land Forces Armor Corps. The Command's role, in this highly visible FMS case, was to support total package fielding through procurement of gunnery, maintenance, and tactical engagement simulation training devices. The development and procurement cycle, for the training device and support materiel, was done by STRICOM concurrently with a tank combat system development program and fielding at or near the time as the actual combat equipment.

In 1997, STRICOM marked the successful completion of fielding state-of-the-art M1A2 tank training devices to the Royal Saudi Land Forces Armor Corps. Over 56 training devices, at a combined value of over $100 million, are now in use by the soldiers of the Royal Saudi Land Forces Armor Corps.

STRICOM has been a key player in Project SWORD since the conduct of the initial site survey in 1991. Our project managers, engineers, and logisticians, combined with leading edge companies in the training and simulation industry, have diligently worked for seven years to provide the mix and range of products and services needed to hone the Royal Saudi Land Forces Armor Corps to a high degree of readiness.

Through our intensive management effort, the SWORD Project received M1A2 Tank: Videodisc Gunnery Simulator (VIGS), Platoon and Unit-Conduct of Fire Trainer (P/UCOFT), Tank Driver Trainer (TDT), Tank Turret Maintenance Trainer (TTMT), Part Task Trainer (PTT), Computer Based Trainer (CBT), and Tank Weapon Gunnery Simulation System (TWGSS). These were the first M1A2 Tank training devices developed, produced, and fielded by ECC, Lockheed Martin and SAAB to any army in the world.

Within five years of the site survey, most of these training devices were operational with the Royal Saudi Land Forces Armor Corps. Over the past two years the trainers have received extensive use. The Royal Saudi Land Forces Armor Corps M1A2 tank units have attributed much of their initial success with the M1A2 Tank to the training devices STRICOM and its partners in industry provided.

Interservice/Industry Training Systems & Education Conference

An international crowd of several thousand attended the opening day of the STRICOM hosted Interservice/Industry Training Systems and Education Conference in Orlando, Florida. This is the premier 1997 conference and exhibition conducted each year for presenting the latest military training technology. Central Florida's defense simulation industry is fast becoming a significant economic development force, employing thousands at over a hundred companies. STRICOM and the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD) award several hundred million dollars in contracts annually. Attending the conference were senior Pentagon officials, military commanders, industry leaders and major contractors. Simulation should remain a high priority in the coming years, generating billions of dollars in contracts for all Services and foreign customers.